

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-08 /073 W
-----240253Z 057654 /14

R 231400Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3426
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
EUCOM VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1396

SHAPE AND EUCOM FOR POLAD

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, NO
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN

REFS: A.OSLO 1798 B. OSLO 0082 C. OSLO 6081 D. COPENHAGEN 3586
E. STOCKHOLM 0881 F. USNATO 0637 (ALL REFS NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES EMBASSY AIRGRAM BEING SENT TO
ADDRESSEES WHICH TRACES THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORWAY'S CHANGING
ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN SINCE THE DEATH OF FRANCO. NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES
TOWARD SPAIN HAVE BEEN UNDERGOING PERCEPTABLE CHANGE SINCE FRANCO'S
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DEATH. BUT, SPAIN IS STILL EMOTIONAL ISSUE IN NORWEGIAN
POLITICS AND THE GON IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY IN DEVELOPING
POSITION, ESPECIALLY IN THIS ELECTION YEAR. NORWEGIANS ARE
GENERALLY IMPRESSED WITH GOOD BEGINNING MADE TOWARD DEMO-
CRATIZATION IN SPAIN. BUT THEY STATE OFFICIALLY THAT PROCESS
OF DEMOCRATIZATION NOT SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED AT PRESENT FOR
NORWAY TO SUPPORT SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP. NORWEGIANS EXPECT

LIBERALIZATION TO GO FORWARD, AND NORWAY'S LABOR MOVEMENT IS LENDING ITS EFFORTS TO HELP DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN. DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN AND ATTITUDES OF NORWAY'S CLOSEST NATO FRIENDS, UK, DENMARK, AND THE NETHERLANDS, WE EXPECT TO SEE INCREASINGLY OUTGOING GON POSITION ON SPAIN IN GENERAL, AND A CAUTIOUS BUT MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TO MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. END SUMMARY.

2. NORWAY'S LONG-STANDING ANTIPATHY TOWARD SPAIN, WITH ITS ROOTS IN THE CIVIL WAR, WORLD WAR II AND NORWAY'S TRADITIONAL AVERSION TO DICTATORSHIP, BEGAN TO UNDERGO PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE AT THE TIME OF PORTUGAL'S 1974 REVOLUTION, AND THE PROCESS ACCELERATED WITH THE DEATH OF FRANCO. AS A FIRST STEP, THE GON HAS OFFICIALLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO THE SPANIARDS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND IS HOPEFUL FOR STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION UNDER THE SUAREZ REGIME. NORWAY LOOKS FORWARD TO THE EVENTUAL INTEGRATION OF SPAIN INTO THE COMMUNITY OF WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS. NORWEGIANS HOPE TO SEE SPAIN DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ALONG WESTERN EUROPEAN LINES.

3. UP TO THIS POINT, HOWEVER, GON IS MOVING SLOWLY IN DEVELOPING ITS POSITION ON SPAIN, INSISTING ON UNMISTAKEABLE PROOF OF PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO FULL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. WHAT SORT OF PROOF WILL SATISFY NORWAY REMAINS TO BE SPECIFIED, AND IT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE SPELLED OUT UNTIL AT LEAST AFTER THE SPANISH ELECTIONS. EVEN THEN, GON CAN BE EXPECTED TO PURSUE A CAUTIOUS POLICY ON SPAIN IN VIEW OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES AND SURVIVING EMOTIONALISM RE SPAIN.
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4. WHILE LABOR-CONTROLLED GON MOVES CAUTIOUSLY ON SPAIN. NORWAY'S LABOR MOVEMENT- LO AND LABOR PARTY-HAS ACTIVE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED SPANISH PROGRAM THAT INVOLVES RELIEF EFFORT FOR POLITICAL EXILES, CLOSE COOPERATION WITH PSOE AND UGT, AND SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE ROLE OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THROUGH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. LABOR MOVEMENT FORESEES LONG PROCESS OF BUILDING VIABLE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN SPAIN, BUT IS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN UNHURRIED EFFORT, COOPERATING WITH SPANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. LABOR MOVEMENT SEES DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS IN SPAIN AS ONLY BEGINNING, AND REMAINS THEREFORE, OPPOSED TO SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY OUR PARTY CONTACTS, HOWEVER, THAT LABOR IS NOT PREJUDICED AGAINST EVENTUAL ADMISSION OF SPAIN INTO NATO, WHEN DEMOCRATIZATION HAS MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS.

5. COMMENT: GON AND NORWEGIANS GENERALLY- INCLUDING MAJOR PARTIES OF LEFT AND RIGHT-ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN, AND DESIRABILITY OF FULL SPANISH PARTICIPATION

IN WESTERN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING, EVENTUALLY, NATO. AT
SAME TIME, ALL AGREE THAT UNMISTAKEABLE ADVANCE OF DEMOCRATIZATION
IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY BEFORE NORWAY CAN EVEN PASSIVELY
ACQUIESCE IN SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP. ISSUE OF SPAIN REMAINS
EMOTIONALLY LOADED ON HERE, AND IN THIS ELECTION YEAR IN NORWAY,
NO ONE WANTS TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF CONSENSUS ON SPAIN. IF
PRESENT PACE OF PROGRESS IN SPAIN CONTINUES, WE CAN FORESEE IN-
CREASINGLY OUTGOING GON POSITION EMERGING, SO THAT NORWAY, WITHOUT
TAKING THE LEAD ON SPAIN IN NATO, WILL AT LEAST BE ABLE TO
COMFORTABLY FOLLOW OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, PARTICULARLY
UK, DENMARK, AND THE NETHERLANDS IN BACKING SPANISH MEMBERSHIP.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO01396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770100-0660
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770331/aaaabalr.tel
Line Count: 128
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4599aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OSLO 1798
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3024087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4599aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009